COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Legislative Session of Vrischigam 1101).

Monday, the 7th of December 1925.

The first meeting of the Legislative Session of the Cochin Legislative Council was held at 11-30 a. m. in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, on the 22nd of Vrischigam 1101, corresponding to the 7th of December 1925. M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur T. S. Narayana Ayyar Avl., M. A. & B. L., Diwan of Cochin and the *ex-officio* President of the Council, was in the Chair.

All the members, except Messrs. K. Krishna Menon, Lonappan Chakkola, P. Munda Vaidyan, Poulo Mampilli and Dr. A. R. Menon were present. Of the members present during the Budget Session, Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar, B. A., Acting Secretary to the Diwan and Mr. A. Sankara Menon, B. A. & B. L., Acting Government Advocate and Law Member, had resigned their seats and were succeeded by Mr. P. Damodara Menon, B. A., and Mr. K. Achyuta Menon, B. A. & B. L., respectively. Mr. E. Simpson, the representative of the Planters' Constituency had resigned his seat in the Council on medical grounds and was succeeded in his place by Mr. H. J. Walmesley.

President:—*Members of the Cochin Legislative Council.* —Not many months have passed since we met last nor have we met too soon. The important budget session held only four months ago, comprising as it did a somewhat lengthy sitting of nine days, is now followed by the legislative session which, I believe, will have to be continued for three meetings at reasonable intervals. I do not now propose to dwell at length on our achievements in the budget session; for the Proceedings thereof have been printed and published, and they give a full and complete account of the work that we did in that session. I may, however, be permitted to make a prominent mention of the fact that His Highness the Maharaja, who was kept in daily touch of the budget proceedings of the Council, was particularly struck with the dignity and candour that characterised the entire Council proceedings and the harmonious relationship and hearty cooperation that existed between the non-official and official members of the House. When, at the termination of the proceedings

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of the budget session, I gave, in my humble way, an account in person of its salient features, His Highness was pleased to observe that we made a good beginning, and His Highness expressed the hope that we would continue to give a good account of ourselves at all subsequent meetings. The numerous constituents whom you, the non-official members, have the honour to represent in this council must, I have no doubt, have watched our proceedings with ardent interest and have been fully satisfied with the performance of their accredited representatives. The Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnattukavu who, in my humble estimation, and I believe in your estimation as well, is entitled by intimate administrative knowledge and ripe experience to voice your sentiments, made a complimentary reference to my conduct in the chair, and I am sincerely thankful to you all for appreciating his speech. It will be my earnest endeavour to pursue the same line of conduct so long as I hold this distinguished and responsible position of President of the Cochin Legislative Council. I would beg of you all to render me the same hearty support I had before and thus lighten my labours as far as it lies in your power in the discharge of my duties as President.

Coming now to this session, the Agenda for this meeting have been published and circulated amongst the members sufficiently early and I believe that the allotted work can be got through within the five days of the present sitting. Though we are in a way familiar with the mode of procedure in regard to the interpellations and resolutions, we are new to the procedure relating to legislation, and this session will give us an opportunity of familiarising ourselves with the working of the provisions bearing on the same. As regards the interpellations and resolutions, it was not possible to get all of them ready. In the case of interpellations, those that were not received sufficiently early were not attempted to be answered as the reference to the Heads of Departments have not yet been responded to. As regards the resolutions also, the same observation has to be made. It will not be out of place in this connection to make a reference to the rules regarding the time limit both for sending up interpellations and resolutions. Rule 9 requires a period of 12 days before the date fixed for the meeting for giving notice of questions, and rule 36 a period of 15 days in the matter of resolutions. No doubt these rules empower the President to extend the period of time, but I think it desirable that an enlarged period is provided for in the rules themselves in respect of these matters. Special difficulty was felt somewhat keenly on this

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occasion when a good number of interpellations and resolutions was received at a late hour and there was hardly time to pay sufficient attention to them. So far as this session is concerned, there is this satisfactory feature, viz., those interpellations and resolutions that do not come up for this meeting will not lapse, as there would be an adjournment of the meeting to a subsequent date and a further adjournment as well before this legislative session is brought to a close.

We have tabled in all, for this meeting, four Government bills and four private bills and, though some of them can easily be got through as they are not of a contentious nature, a few are likely to be seriously contested as they involve questions of great principle.

With these preliminary observations, I declare that the meeting be formally opened.

Before we proceed to the consideration of the items of business mentioned in the Agenda, it is our paramount duty in our capacity as the representatives of the people of Cochin to submit our profound and heart-felt sympathy to the King-Emperor and the Members of the Royal Family on the demise of the Queen Mother, the universally respected and beloved Queen Alexandra, whose loss has given rise to an unparalleled mourning by all classes of His Majesty's subjects throughout the British Empire and outside. A resolution to this effect is to be moved in this House by the Diwan Peishkar, Rao Sahib T.V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar, and seconded by the Deputy President, Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon. I will now request the Diwan Peishkar to move this resolution of condolence standing in his name.

Her late Majesty Queen Alexandra.

RAO SAHIB T. V. KASTURI RANGA AYYAR.

Mr. President,

Before we commence the regular business of the day, I rise with your permission, Sir, to perform the solemn duty of moving the following Resolution :—

"This Council desires to express, with due respect, its deep sorrow at the death of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra and its sincere sympathy with His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor and the Royal Family in the great loss sustained by them".

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